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DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND  
STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED  
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2004

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HEARINGS

BEFORE A

SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH CONGRESS  
FIRST SESSION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE  
JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES  
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Committee, are authorized to sit as Members of all Subcommittees.

Mike Ringler, Christine Kojac, Leslie Albright, and John F. Martens  
Subcommittee Staff

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PART 9

TESTIMONY OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND OTHER  
INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS

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DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY AND RELATED  
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2004

TESTIMONY OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND OTHER INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS AND  
ORGANIZATIONS

Thursday, April 10, 2003.

WITNESS

HON. DOUG BEREUTER, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF  
NEBRASKA

Mr. Wolf [presiding]. The committee will come to order. We welcome Mr. Bereuter first. Welcome, Doug. Your full statement will appear in the record.

Mr. Bereuter. Mr. Chairman, Congressman Serrano, members of the subcommittee and staff, we thank you for the opportunity to testify on a number of projects. They are all statewide projects. They are, in fact, all drug-related.

Congressman Osborne, who will come shortly for this, will also be testifying for one of the three that is listed here plus another drug-related program.

We have absolutely a huge methamphetamine problem in the state. It is a plague. I think, proportionately, Iowa and Nebraska may have the largest problem with this in the country. And we are not making progress; we are losing the battle. And it is affecting every community, practically, in the state. It is as big a problem in rural areas as it is in urban. It is concentrated in people in their twenties.

Mr. Wolf. That is incredible.

Mr. Bereuter. It is. It is a terrible plague, and it is leading, of course, to a lot of related crime. And this is a really insidious drug, because it is so incredibly addictive. And you see what is happened to a person in two years' time--the chances are they are going to die from this. There is very little opportunity to move away from it without extraordinary intervention.

It is now a problem mostly concentrated in people in their twenties. We are concerned about it moving downward, of course, and there is some evidence that is happening.

So, the request I have related to the Clandestine Lab Cleanup Program, to give you some idea, we have found just in 2002, 372 labs. That placed a huge burden on Nebraska law enforcement, so I am requesting these funds.

Congressman Osborne is making the same request, I think, in this area, to invest in a lab cleanup program. He will speak, perhaps, more to it.

But additionally, you notice some other items in this.

\$45,000 to fund three dump sites for storage of hazardous materials found in clandestine labs. This is, additionally, a major fire problem, because we have had many explosions that take place and fires in houses and other kinds of buildings.

The third component is a \$197,400 for a forward-looking infrared (FLIR) device that could be mounted on aircraft to help detect these labs. Currently, there is one FLIR in Nebraska used throughout the state. An additional FLIR would be located in western Nebraska for better availability.

There is a request for the state crime lab, which is fairly self-explanatory, I think. Seventy-five to 80 percent of the analyses conducted are at the request of the state's law enforcement agencies. And a very large part of this is also drug-related.

A drug treatment prevention program--for an 18-month drug treatment program to be implemented through a drug court system. Research shows that the methamphetamine users need this length of treatment to be successful in recovery, if they can at all. Of course, that is a critically important component of the fight against methamphetamine abuse.

I will be happy to answer any question you might have about this. I thank you for your assistance last year on this problem. It is important. It is being used well. It is being used very effectively and efficiently by the law enforcement and drug-related programs in the state.

[The information follows:]

[GRAPHIC(S) NOT AVAILABLE IN TIFF FORMAT]

Mr. Wolf. Thank you, Doug. We will try to help all of the states to the extent that we can do so with such tight allocations. I think you have made a good case for taking further action on this issue.

I would hope the Administration will focus with laser beam precision on illicit drug use and other domestic issues in the aftermath of the war in Iraq.

Because time after time, throughout these FY 2004 appropriations hearings, we have seen how drugs, including methamphetamine, OxyContin, Ecstasy and others, affect inner-cities, suburbs, and rural areas alike. Methamphetamine labs have sprung up in my district, even the western part, in the Shenandoah Valley, known for its beauty, bears the scars of this scourge.

And so, if we can help, we will certainly try to----

Mr. Bereuter. Thank you. I know that, Mr Chairman.

I heard this morning, for example, about the Oxy problem down in southwest Virginia, which is apparently extreme.

Mr. Wolf. It is--because this drug may be prescribed by doctors--people think they are taking a legal drug. They are crushing it--we had a competent attorney in Prince William County go to jail from use of it. Six, seven, eight pharmacies in my district have now been robbed.

But it is all part of the whole culture. And, so, Doug, we will try to help to the extent that we can.

Mr. Bereuter. Thank you.

Mr. Wolf. Any further questions, Mr. Serrano?

Mr. Serrano. I agree with the chairman. You know, for many years the drug issue has been an inner-city issue--at least it was seen that way. But now we are realizing that it is spread out throughout our society.

And I can tell you, as one who represents the South Bronx, that if we do not catch it early, it will rape your communities the way it has raped mine. It is the number one reason for all the problems that we have in our neighborhoods. You take drugs out of neighborhoods, you would probably take 80 percent of the crime out of the neighborhoods in the Bronx.

Mr. Bereuter. Those statistics would match my district. Eighty percent of the crime related to methamphetamine right now in Fremont, Nebraska.

Mr. Serrano. Yes. Same thing. I understand. And I will be supportive.

Mr. Bereuter. Thank you.

Mr. Wolf. Your full statement will appear in the record.

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Thursday, April 10, 2003.

WITNESS

HON. TOM OSBORNE, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEBRASKA

Mr. Osborne. Okay. In other words, you are saying be brief.

Mr. Wolf. No, I mean----

[Laughter.]

Mr. Osborne. Well, thank you for--as Congressman Bereuter mentioned, we appreciate your help last year. You did steer us toward some money to help combat meth and we really appreciate that.

Really want to talk about three issues here today. One is the Boys' and Girls' Home in Southern Nebraska spread across the state. And I think traditionally rural areas have the image of being very family friendly and very sound as far as young people.

But we have found in recent years that with the rural economy, both parents are working. We probably have more latchkey kids in the country than you do in some of the cities. So we are having more problems than we have ever had before.

So we are asking for \$550,000 for 2004 to provide full funding for the Boys' and Girls' Homes of Nebraska to prevent juvenile justice and delinquency-related programs. And what these would do is they would provide short-term shelters, group homes.

Secondly, they would provide non-criminal juvenile offenders who have not been convicted of serious crimes--and those kinds of things. And then a diversion program to help people do community service and make restitution and those kinds of things. We think this is a very worthwhile project.

Secondly, we would like to request \$3 million for a public safety telecommunications education for emergency response managers. At the University of Nebraska at Kearney there is an undergraduate program, it is the only one in the state, which provides education for undergraduates in the area of

telecommunications and first responders.

And we feel that is very important throughout the state of Nebraska at the present time. And we feel that since this is the only university in the state--the only educational institution that this is going to be important.

Then lastly, I would like to second what Congressman Bereuter has said about the meth problem. He has mentioned a great many of the issues I was going to advance in this discussion. He mentioned that there were 372 planned--or clandestine lab operations that were discovered in 2002. And the interesting thing that in 1999 there were 37. So it is a ten-fold increase in a period of three or four years. So it is an exploding problem.

And the reason that it is become so prevalent in rural America is that you can have a meth lab out in the country that goes relatively undetected. In the city, you know, there is some odor involved or there is a lot of material that are involved. And if you are in an urban area, it is kind of difficult to get things done.

So anyway, he mentioned that we wanted \$350,000 to clean up some of these operations. And the reason that is so important is that these hazardous materials oftentimes require somebody to come in from Kansas City.

In other words, they get a meth lab and they have to have a special team come in all the way from Kansas City to dismantle it. And then we have to dispose of the hazardous materials and that is going to about \$45,000, because those materials are clearly hazardous that they use.

And drug treatment and prevention, \$150,000. The average meth addict needs 18 months of inpatient treatment to have a chance. Now most drug rehab programs are, you know, maybe two months. But meth apparently is so addictive and so powerful that it is very difficult to get people to recover. As Doug mentioned, it is often fatal.

And some of the law enforcement people out in Nebraska told me that the average meth addict will commit roughly 130 crimes per year per addict. So you can imagine the extent of the social dysfunction that this causes.

Anyway, those are our requests. And we appreciate your listening to them.

[The information follows:]

[GRAPHIC(S) NOT AVAILABLE IN TIFF FORMAT]

Mr. Wolf. Thank you very much.

Before I recognize Mr. Serrano, we will try to help, number one. Number two, on the emergency response request, since the new Homeland Security Appropriations Committee has been set up under Mr. Rogers, I would urge you to maybe also make that request to Mr. Rogers.

As a coach, as someone who works with young people. Why do you suppose this is taking place?

Mr. Osborne. Well, I think what I saw over 36 years was a lot of family dysfunction. In 1962, when I started, you seldom ran across somebody from a one parent family. If so, it was usually because there was one parent and the other one was

deceased. And by the time I finished in 1997, roughly 50 percent our young people were growing up without both biological parents. So that is a huge factor.

And then of course, the environment has changed. You know, there is a shift toward violence. The drug culture was relatively unknown in 1962. Today it is out there with gangs and weapons. So I think, Frank, it is basically just lack of a caring adult in a child's life. And a lot of lack of affirmation. There is nobody saying, you know, ``I believe in you. I really think you can do something.''

That is why I devoted so much of my time to mentoring programs. And I am glad to see the president has kind of gotten behind that, because it is the one thing that statistically we know will actually serve in a preventative way. Drug abuse goes down about 50 percent in a good mentoring program and alcohol abuse and violence and all of those things.

But it is mainly, I think, family-related and somewhat culturally-related. And the messages our media are putting out there, you know, I am really dismayed by the amount of pornography, the content of video games and some of the things that you are concerned about.

Mr. Wolf. We had a hearing yesterday with the FTC and we showed a video, ``Grand Theft Auto 2'', I think it was. You would not believe it. You would--unless you see it, you would not believe it. We should not wonder why the sniper terrorized my area. We should not wonder. This game is--I had never heard of it. My kids are past that point. And it is unbelievable.

I mean, if the Congress could just take 10 minutes out and watch this game. And yet, you know, the lobbyists for the group said, well, you know, they pretty much can do what they want to do because nobody on Capitol Hill can touch them.

And these sniper crosshairs, shooting in the head, more points if you hit the head. And if you get so many points, like the old pinball game, you then get--you see this pornographic--I mean, it is crazy. I cannot believe it and it is going to be a \$20 billion industry.

I hope the administration, when this war in Iraq is over, can focus on some of these issues that I think are just--and I think there are some of the cultural issues that there is no divide between the two parties. I think the parties both want to see the support of families and all these things together. It ought to be a healing issue, whereby there is a tremendous opportunity for bipartisanship.

But in closing, before Mr. Serrano, we will try to help on these issues. And I would ask you to talk to Mr. Rogers on that one. But on the others, we will try to help.

Mr. Serrano.

Mr. Osborne. If--one more comment--and that is, you know, I am concerned about terrorism and international events. But I really perceive the greatest threat to our country is the dissolution of the culture. You know, long-term, long-haul, I see more threat here than I do from external forces.

And I observe that, I think, with what I saw with young people who were--period of time. So I share a lot of your concerns.

Mr. Serrano. Thank you for your testimony. And I will join the chairman in being supportive. In the 1980s I used to end

all my public statements by saying that communism is not going to defeat us, it is the drugs in our cities and the falling apart of the American family that will defeat us from within.

Now, the drugs in the cities have spread out everywhere in the society. Just an aside, the chairman is intent, and I support him, on trying to find out what effect video games have on the violent aspect of our society. But I also want to go a step farther at the expense of sounding sarcastic.

I would like to know what three weeks of CNN coverage of a war does to young people who feel adults settle issues by beating up on each other quickly.

And in your line of work, which we respect so much, I have never understood why if two people beat each other up on the street corner they get arrested, and two hockey players can do it on worldwide TV and it is totally acceptable.

I know that is a touchy subject for many people, but I think we need to look at the whole picture. But thank you for bringing this to our attention again, and I will be as supportive as I can be.

Mr. Wolf. Congressman Schiff, welcome to this committee. Your full statement will appear in the record.

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Thursday, April 10, 2003.

WITNESS

HON. ADAM SCHIFF, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. Schiff. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and ranking member. Appreciate the opportunity to testify to you, before you today. Just a couple of items that I wanted to go over in particular, and the first is the Law Enforcement Memorial Act, and I want to thank you for your support of this last year.

This was a bill that I introduced with Tom Davis to make funds available to different police and fire departments that wanted to create lasting memorials or tributes to people who had died in the line of duty.

In the city of Glendale, which was the origin of this bill, they have lost four police officers during the course of their, the department's history, and like many communities that want to erect a memorial in honor of those that they lost, but cannot divert the resources from additional cops on the beat or equipment, and have taken up a collection to raise funds for this.

The bill that we passed as part of the Justice Department authorization authorizes the establishment of a fund to provide a 50-percent federal match for local and state funds.

And you were kind enough to begin funding that program last year with an initial appropriation of \$500,000, and I would ask this year that we work on providing the full amount of funding, which would be \$3 million.

That would be enough to fund 20 memorials around the country, to provide \$150,000 match for local contributions of the same amount. And since we introduced the legislation we have heard from many departments around the country--very



pleased that this initiative has gone forward.

We have heard from the spouses, the widows of lost officers who now have hope that their communities can erect something to recognize the sacrifice that their spouses have made.

The second program I wanted to highlight today is the COPS Program. Last year, I came before the committee to ask for your support to keep this program funded, and thanks to the efforts of this subcommittee and the efforts in the Senate, as well, the COPS Program was funded at \$928 million for fiscal year 2003.

It has been a very successful program in Los Angeles and many other parts of the country, and I understand that the administration budget calls for significantly less funding, I think \$163 million to be allocated to COPS, as well as a significant realignment of resources.

And I would again like to urge the subcommittee to remain committed and support the COPS Program. I also want to talk briefly today about the Interagency Communications Interoperability System, ICIS.

Since September 11th there has been a consistent call around the country for our first responders to have interoperable communications equipment so that they can talk with each other.

In many areas of the country that are like Los Angeles, you have police departments and other first responders, fire departments, that are side-by-side representing different communities, protecting different communities, but not able to adequately talk with each other in the event of an emergency.

The communications systems of most of the cities in L.A. County function as islands, one unit from one city responds, leaves its home jurisdiction, radio contact with that unit diminishes rapidly.

The intent of the ICIS system is to provide public safety agencies, primarily those in the greater L.A. Metropolitan Area, with the means for wide-area communications interoperability.

And this is essential for the safety of the public safety personnel, operating outside of their home cities, and is imperative when it is employed in a large-scale incident involving multiple jurisdictions.

Currently the cities of Burbank, Culver City, El Segundo, Glendale, Montevella, Pasadena, Pomona and Torrence, which are scattered all around L.A. County, have formed this ICIS Joint-Powers Authority to oversee implementation of the project.

Other cities are waiting to join this JPA, but this will really be a model for the entire state of California and beyond in how communities can band together, can develop this interoperable technology, and can in a much more effective way communicate with each other in the event of both the kind of emergencies that we have regrettably every day, but more significantly after September 11th in the event of a major incident.

Finally, I requested \$4 million for that joint effort for the city of Glendale. Finally, I wanted to emphasize a project in the city of Burbank. It is a middle school violence prevention project that works to provide and encourage and support activities that contribute to the prevention of

violence and the promotion of a productive and positive experience for middle school students, a key age and demographic in terms of stemming the flow of young people into non-productive activities.

And if I could just add on to something that Coach Ourne ourne said in his testimony, when I was in the State Senate I chaired the Judiciary Committee, and I think in the four years that I was there the most salient testimony we heard was from a gentleman named Father Greg Boyle, who works in East Los Angeles with at-risk youth.

And he was asked during our hearing if there was anything he could point to as a common denominator for youth that had pulled themselves out of very difficult circumstance and turned their lives around.

And he said there were two things that he could identify: They had a mentor, they had someone who cared whether they succeeded or failed--and it might have been a grandparent or a social worker or a police officer or a teacher--someone cared if the youth succeeded, and they were able to get a job.

And I have never forgotten those words. I think those are two of the twin pillars of helping at-risk youth. And I think this effort very much complements that philosophy and I want to just add my voice to that of Tom Osborne, as well.

And I appreciate it.

[The information follows:]

[GRAPHIC(S) NOT AVAILABLE IN TIFF FORMAT]

Mr. Wolf. I thank you very much. We will do the best we can on the budget allocation, which are again going to be very difficult this year, perhaps more so this year than even last year, if that is possible.

But thank you for taking the time to testify this morning. And I will recognize Mr. Serrano.

Mr. Serrano. I commend you for your work with the Memorials. I think that is something that we identify with you and something that really speaks to your desire to have people recognized for their service in this country.

So, again, I would join the chairman in doing the best that we can. But I wanted to single out my respect for you on this particular issue.

Mr. Schiff. Thank you very much. It would not have happened without your help.

Thank you.

Mr. Wolf. Thank you very much.

Mr. Crowley is not here, so maybe so can have Mr. Rothman and Mr. McNulty so he can--you can both come up together so you do not have to hang around all day. And---

Mr. Serrano. It is a tough team.

Mr. Wolf. If you can your full statement will be in the record. We are sort of asking people to kind of keep it within that five minute range.

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Thursday, April 10, 2003.

WITNESS

HON. STEVEN ROTHMAN, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Mr. Rothman. Yes, sir, and hope to do it in less time than that. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Ranking Member, it is always a privilege. I want to say, good morning and tell you I am here to talk about two items.

First, congratulations to us all--mostly to you--Garden State of New Jersey--most densely crowded state in the United States, as you know. This is my district right here. And as those people with foresight at the Tinicum National Wildlife Refuge in Pennsylvania--no, Islands of the Marsh----

Mr. Wolf. That is my old neighborhood.

Mr. Rothman [continuing]. That is right--that we can reclaim land fills and polluted poisoned lands in areas that were written off, and especially in the most densely crowded spot in the most densely crowded state in the country, we can make an 8,400 acre environmental park.

We already--we own all but 3,300 acres of the 8,400 acres. Thanks to you, we are going to own the rest of it in the next two or three years.

The state rezoned the 8,400 acres. It is a half-a-mile from Giant Stadium. You can imagine the development interest in that spot. The state just agreed with me and based on your giving me the imprimatur of the Congress and rezoned it all undevelopable, 8,400 acres. And the money you gave me in the last two years will allow us with the money that the state is putting up in the next two to three years to own all 8,400 acres.

We need another last installment for the purchase, which is why I am coming to you for 5 million bucks. The state will match the 5, and then we will own the rest of the 8,400 acres.

We own all but 3,300 acres. We are going to buy another 1,000 this year, that leaves 2,300 acres. And within two to three years we will own it all. And then of course we will come back for a couple of dollars for remediation. But we have already identified port authority, New Jersey state green acres, tipping fees from the--and the rest for that money which will more than match the federal share.

And here are the--already the properties identified that we are going to use by the state commission to buy up in this area. You have the green map. And this is what we did years ago when we came before you. Now the state of New Jersey has enacted this into law by redrafting the master plan to make this undevelopable and as subject.

So that is number one.

Thank you. We are making progress. No one would ever have believed we would have gotten this far. And we are on the threshold. Think if it, this ill be no only my greatest legacy, but I hope and believe one of the committee's greatest legacies.

Ten times the size of Central Park in the most densely crowded spot in the most densely crowded state--former landfills, polluted areas and we are going to make it an environmental preserve--canoeing, fishing, nature trails, the whole bit. And we are almost--and we are just about there in

terms of acquiring the rest of the land.

And that is number one.

Number two, thanks to your effort, we got off the ground the Secure Our Schools Act. We got it passed on the Judiciary Committee when I was on there. And then you funded it--\$5 million each for last year. This is the matching program where people who feel their school kids are in danger and they want to match for walk-through metal detectors, hand-held metal detectors, a new security program for their schools.

The Department of Justice--and it has been great--it is 100 percent subscribed to. The problem is the Department of Justice says that of the 56,000--excuse me--88,000 public schools in the United States, who if they would want to avail themselves of it, this 5 million bucks only goes--can cover 2 percent.

Again, it is not a government mandate. School boards have to say we will put up our half if the government puts up its half to ensure the safety of our kids.

So I am asking for a modest \$30 million for that program--  
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[Laughter.]

Mr. Rothman [continuing]. And I know you will do the best you can under difficult circumstances.

The point is these two programs, which you have helped give birth to, are magnificent accomplishments. And they are going to be something that we are all going to be incredibly proud of.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Ranking Member.

[The information follows:]

[GRAPHIC(S) NOT AVAILABLE IN TIFF FORMAT]

Mr. Wolf. Thank you very much.

Mr. Serrano. Were you ever a used car salesman? [Laughter.]

Mr. Wolf. I have no questions. Thank you for your testimony.

Mr. Serrano.

Mr. Serrano. None. I just want to commend you again on your commitment to this. And how far is the Bronx from that park?

Mr. Rothman. Very close. [Laughter.]

Actually, you can see the Empire State Building. Mr. Chairman, you can see--you can stand on a boat---

Mr. Serrano. No, I know you worked hard on that project for a long time.

Mr. Rothman. Thank you, thank you. It is incredible. And I look forward to taking you guys on a boat tour. And you will not believe the 65 species of birds there and wildlife that are returning now that we closed the landfills and are cleaning up the toxic waste and sites.

It is unbelievable. And we are bringing schools kids there--kayakers and boaters and birder watchers. And we brought the head of Fish and Wildlife Service--the National Fish and Wildlife Service. He took a kayak tour with me down the Hackensack River through the heart of it and he--it blew his mind.

He said, ``You have to normally leave a boat two hours outside of a urban area to see this kind of diversity of

wildlife and plant life. And here it is. There is the Empire State Building two miles away.''

But the people of the region desperately need this refuge. It is so crowded there. There is no other refuge. That is why we had to make it out of the landfills in this region. And it is now zoned undevelopable. We are almost there to purchase the whole, whole enchilada.

Mr. Wolf. Thank you.

Mr. Serrano.

Mr. Serrano, do you have anything?

Mr. Serrano. Well, you lost me on the enchilada thing.

[Laughter.]

Mr. Wolf. Mr.--we have no further questions. Thank you.

Mr. Rothman. Thank you.

Mr. Wolf. Mr. McNulty.

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Thursday, April 10, 2003.

WITNESS

HON. MICHAEL McNULTY, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Mr. McNulty. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Serrano.

I just have one request that is worth \$3 million in the Byrne discretionary grant account for Excelsior College in Albany, New York. It is a continuous criminal justice distance learning program.

This program benefits law enforcement officers all across the nation. And I emphasize, although its headquartered in my district, it serves communities all across the nation, and a number of them--actually have students in a number of foreign countries in other programs. But this is domestic. Just parenthetically, it also--again, not having to do with this request, Excelsior College is the largest nursing program in the world.

It is the oldest distance learning college. It has awarded fully accredited degrees to more than 100,000 students over 30 years in existence.

It is unique in many ways. Primarily it serves working adults including many members of the United States armed forces. Excelsior is an exclusive distance learning institution. There is no campus. It is--you might say the jet age of distance learning, mostly computer and other experience.

Third, Excelsior offers working adults the opportunity to earn college credit for professional training experience. Proven to offer educational outcomes equal to outcomes expected in the college classroom.

The Criminal Justice Distance Learning Program requires Excelsior College faculty to visit interested training academies and evaluate the curriculum and courses offered by those academies. Where college level learning is demonstrated, Excelsior College awards college credit similar to the advanced placement test that many high school seniors take for college credit.

Many military and computer science training programs have

already been evaluated and approved by the American Council on Education as containing the same curriculum as outcomes in traditional college courses. This program is critical to law enforcement officers as it offers them flexible approaches to earning college credit, a tool increasingly in demand within the law enforcement community.

And I want to thank you because this project was first funded in the fiscal 2002 Commerce, Justice and State appropriations bill. And I thank you for doing that which you did to the tune of \$1 million.

I am very pleased to report that the demand for this service is far greater than anyone expected. As of February of this year, the college had received requests from 23 academies all across the country for evaluations. They already did 15 site visits. They have completed six of those and have fully completed the assessment for the Texas Department of Public Safety, the largest state police academy in the country.

In addition to these evaluations, Excelsior has assembled regional teams of expert evaluators for academia and law enforcement to verify that the content in training academies meets the collegiate learning outcome requirements.

In the process, many academies have told Excelsior that they have long wanted to evaluate their programs for college level equivalency, but the cost has prevented them from doing so. A \$3 million appropriation for fiscal 2004 will enable Excelsior College to continue this highly successful program, allowing it to evaluate an additional 100 training academies across the United States of America.

Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Serrano, I would like to also be able to submit for the record three letters of praise and support for this program from the State of Nevada Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training, the Michigan State Police and the city of Colorado Springs, Colorado.

And finally, I recognize the tremendous strain that you are under as far as decisions of this committee are concerned. I know that you will receive a lot of worthy testimony today on very worthwhile projects.

And they will outnumber and outstrip the amount of resources available. So my request is for you to simply consider this program, which you have funded before, and I appreciate any consideration that you might give to this \$3 million request or any portion thereof.

[The information follows:]

[GRAPHIC(S) NOT AVAILABLE IN TIFF FORMAT]

Mr. Wolf. Thank you, Mike. We will try to do the best we can. But we appreciate your testimony.

Mr. Serrano.

Mr. Serrano. Just to state that Mike has been very strong on this particular program. I know that you do not ask for a lot of things, but you do care about this one. I will join the chairman in providing any help we can give you.

Mr. Stupak.

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Thursday, April 10, 2003.

WITNESS

HON. BART STUPAK, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

Mr. Stupak. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Wolf. Your full statement will appear in the record.

Mr. Stupak. Thanks.

Good morning, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, the first part of my testimony deals with the Department of Commerce. Those are mostly issues that we have always dealt with on Great Lakes and to help protect our Great Lakes. Whether it is the International Joint Commission, which is a joint commission between U.S. and Canada and their request for their budget to the Sea Grant Program to the Great Lakes Fisheries, which is a \$4 billion program in Michigan.

This committee has been supportive, and this subcommittee. And I want to say thank you for that. So I am just going to breeze over that and hope you will continue the funding as you have for these vital programs in the Great Lakes.

I would like to spend a few moments talking about Department of Justice and some of the needs we do have in Northern Michigan. As you know, my district is one of the biggest in the nation. It is one of the most rural in the nation. And any help you can give on some of our modest requests certainly goes a long way in rural areas.

Like the first one is Algier County Public Safety geographic information systems communication upgrade, \$70,000. Compared to the \$30 million that Mr. Rothman was asking for, this might seem small, but it goes a long ways to help out small counties like this. The GIS, or geographic information system is really the foundation for all mapping and even our global positioning system, GPS.

So this information can be used to locate with accuracy where things are, whether it is a fire hydrant in a rural district, where are they, to natural disasters and emergency situations, whether manmade or naturally occurring. That is why the GIS is critically important to law enforcement.

Next, is probably our number one priority or request. The Charlevoix, Sheboygan, Emmet CCE central dispatch authority, you have helped them in the past. Now, last year we had asked for an upgrade.

But now things have sort of changed, and Coast Guard and Border Patrol and Customs. This batch is probably the most progressive one in my district. And they put millions of dollars into it.

And they are in the tip of the Lower Peninsula there, right by the Straits of Mackinac on the eastern end. But since--with their system they have, they have been in contact with the Coast Guard, with the Border Patrol and Customs. And we have a crossing right there in Chippewa County. Canada, we have probably about 100-something miles of water there by Canada--the St. Mary's River.

And this CCE is like the premier center. And they have been approached by others to be able to upgrade their system so they can do fingerprinting for INS, for Customs, right out of their--out of Sault Ste. Marie.

And, so that is why the increase went from a million, which--to \$15 million.

Mr. Wolf. Will the gentleman yield this question?

Mr. Stupak. Yes, sir.

Mr. Wolf. Ah, I think you might want to be talking with the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee----

Mr. Stupak. We have.

Mr. Wolf [continuing]. On that. I think that is really where that would be funded, since that has sort of moved out of this committee on to Mr. Rogers. Excuse me.

Mr. Stupak. Sure. We have, Mr. Chairman, and hopefully, they will help us, but I am trying to cover all my bases here on this one, because it is critically important.

But they have brought together all of their middle units in those three counties. And that is, actually, the size of, like, Delaware, and some of the other states. So, it is a huge, massive area. And they take in about 13 law enforcement areas, 28 fire departments, ambulances, state police--they are all tied in. It is one of the few that are worked in very nicely.

So, I will keep my eye on the other one, and if it does not look good, I will may be coming back. Or I at least mentioned to you on the floor.

Chippewa County, which I just mentioned--they are looking to upgrade their system. Again, they got about 451 miles of shoreline, and it is the international border with Canada. They have not upgraded their system since 1974. It does not even work very well. So, that is the upgrade we are looking for there.

Lake Superior State University, like Mr. McNulty, is a law enforcement training center--criminal justice and fire science program. They are asking for some help to upgrade their system--\$383,000.

The Lac Vieux Desert Reserve Tribal Police Detention Facility, we are asking \$545,000. This was actually a Native American tribe on the extreme western end of the Upper Peninsula. And they were--they have actually went ahead and built this detention center, and it helps out, again, Michigan State Police, local sheriff's department, local--but they just do not have any money to operate it now.

They built it out of their resources. The operating funds are of a difficulty to get from them. For the state to transfer money in has not worked as they had hoped it would.

So, the detention center is still there. They have taken other monies to operate it. So they are looking for \$545,000 so they can operate it, which would then free up people to go on the road.

The reason why this detention center was so critical--out where they are located, you have to go 100 miles to detain anybody, to put them in jail. And then, if you had a court appearance, you have to run up 50 miles, pick them up, return another 50 miles. It was just eating up their costs.

They built it because they are a small tribe, really cannot keep it up. The state of Michigan supports it, everyone else supports it. So, if you could do something on that one, we would appreciate it.

Thin Blue Line of Michigan. This committee has been very good the last two years we have been in asking for help. You



have provided that help to them, so I want to say thank you and hope you will continue their assistance.

As an old Thin Blue Line, as the number of volunteers where police officer or firefighter is killed in Michigan--an aid builder will volunteer services to bring attorneys and others to help them go through the quagmire of paperwork to make sure they will receive all their benefits.

And this is a volunteer program. All of that money that is left just goes to operating costs. They travel the state of Michigan on their own time, their own vehicles--that is what we use the money for in you have supported in the past, and we appreciate it.

Last but not least, the COPS hiring program. I will put my strong emphasis on law enforcement, since I came out of that area. I thank you for last year for restoring funding for the COPS program. I hope you continue funding the program.

[The information follows:]

[GRAPHIC(S) NOT AVAILABLE IN TIFF FORMAT]

Mr. Wolf. Thank you, Bart.

Mr. Serrano.

Mr. Serrano. Well, just to commend you for the fact that you have not only asked for particular things for your district, but you do have great concern, as some of the folks behind you also will, for issues that are nationwide and global, and I commend you for that.

Mr. Stupak. Thank you.

Mr. Wolf. Thank you.

Mr. Farr, and perhaps we can get Mr. Allen at the same time. We have a full schedule up here. Your full statement will appear on the record.

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Thursday, April 10, 2003.

WITNESS

HON. SAM FARR, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. Farr. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I am delighted to be here, and I always love coming here, and looking at that map, because we are here to talk about the oceans, and you can see how much of the blue world is out there on our planet. And this is the committee--just thinking about your jurisdiction, of how wide it is.

But to bring it to the oceans, I was trying to think of how it related the oceans to you, Mr. Chairman. The only thing I could think, was:

``O Shenandoah, away you rolling river.''

Well, that rolling river goes into the Potomac and into the Atlantic, and what we are---

Mr. Wolf. I would love to have it. The Atlantic.

Can you do the second verse?

Mr. Farr. No. [Laughter.]

In fact, I was thinking of what I could do for Mr. Serrano. And I could not come up with any--you know, I would think of a

Sinatra song that had to do with the oceans. The only thing I could come up with is his sidekick Dino Martin, who--

``Somewhere beyond the sea, somewhere waiting for me.''

So, both of you----

Mr. Serrano. So you have never heard Sinatra's ``Lowly two rivers stay away from my door?''

Mr. Farr. I am waiting to hear you sing it. [Laughter.]

The point is that Mr. Allen and I are both here because we live in coastal areas. And the coastal areas are this incredible meeting of land and water--the key big masses on the planet, and it just called the most fragile ecosystem and the least known about.

We have developed, and to the credit of this committee, a program called the National Marine Sanctuary within NOAA. And I would like the--of people in that division to start creating national parks. That these are areas that are--there are only 13 of them in the United States.

And, what they are becoming--I mean, they are all in the water, so it is not, you do not walk through them. It is not accessible in the sense of a land mass, but it is beginning to, because of the focus, to create this interpretation of--what is it?

What is all this? Why is this all important? Why should we take care of things like tide pools, and not just go in there and take things out of them.

As we have learned that if we took everything out of the forests, trees and so on, you would not have a survivable environment.

And we are starting to learn that about the ocean, and so I am working here to be strong supporters of the National Marine Sanctuary Program. It is not a very expensive program, the administration has supported it.

I am suggesting that we might even put a little more money in there just because of the, cover of the operations and maintenance of these programs, which we did that, we focused that on the national parks a few years ago.

Mr. Regula was really keen on making sure that the national parks sort of invested in their infrastructure, and it became, as you remember, a battle between whether you got to create more national parks or take care of the ones we have.

We ought to take care of the marine sanctuaries we have, and just give them a little more money to do what they are doing well.

Within NOAA there is also a program that is new, it is called the Marine Protected Areas, it is very controversial, commercial fishermen are concerned about these.

Mr. Allen and I both support strong commercial fishing industries. I am very supportive of not--because they are so new that, and everybody's just, well, what if? What if they stop us from fishing?

We have not even gotten to that point yet. And I am suggesting these programs need to be supported, because right now they are collecting data to try to figure out--and I would say the marine protected areas are much like the equivalent of wilderness areas within our national forests, where we have decided that there ought to be certain areas that are not logged and not mined and not--that are left in their natural state.

We are collecting the data on where those ought to be in the ocean, we do not know yet. And before we decide that some harm may come to somebody, we ought not to kill the programs.

So I would like to support that very strongly.

And lastly, I think that we also have to look at--and this is something both of us spent a lot of our time on--is, how do we better--Mr. Gilchrest as well--but how do you better protect your marine fisheries?

I mean, it is an integral of our nation's history and our economy.

But, we are using the technology that is--it is so evident right now, even in the Iraqi war. Part of that, going out into the ocean, and the fish do not have a chance anymore. We caught 4.3 million tons of fish in 2002 alone. Those fish are \$3.2 billion to our economy.

But, you know, we are out there just catching wild stuff. This is equivalent to America, when you had to go out and hunt for your food at night. When we took it from the wild. Well, we do not need that anymore. And we need to know how to not catch so much from the ocean without protecting that environment better.

So we need to do a better assessment on our fish stocks. We have already seen some that have collapsed. And I am sure that--is going to talk a little bit about that.

But those are the areas that I am asking about. And nothing specifically for my district.

I came with my attention on--I would like to throw this in, and I do not know if this could be in report language or something--that we are, the Congress is able to access Sea Grant Fellows. They choose with their fellowship program, whether they want to go work for agencies and other areas.

And those that come to Congress, I think it is about 8 a year, they choose what offices they want to work in. I have had some in my office.

But it proved to me that they are still--they are only authorized to be here for a year. We ought to expand that Sea Grant Fellowship to two years, to one session of Congress. Because they get started on working on programs, and they never see them completed. And it is kind of a disruption.

So, that is just my two cents' worth. And I appreciate your time and your interest. And, again, any effort--all the land masses in America contribute to the ocean, because all the water systems run into it.

And most of those water systems are also dependent on a clean ocean in order to get fish stock back in and provide for recreational fishing and so on. And I really appreciate your attention to the universality of dealing with this of this program, and I appreciate your continued support.

[The information follows:]

[GRAPHIC(S) NOT AVAILABLE IN TIFF FORMAT]

Mr. Wolf. Thank you, Sam.

Maybe you can check with the authorizers to see, maybe we can do something on that and extend it for two years in the bill. If we had--sometimes the authorizers get upset if we go

in a certain area, but I think that one makes sense.

You are saying, bring one in the cycle at the beginning of January of the new session, and they would stay through the entire----

Mr. Farr. It would stay for two years. I do not know if they need to stay for two years in the agency anyway or not, but if they choose the Congressional model, it is not going to cost any more.

Mr. Wolf. No, no, it is not. Well, if you check with the authorizers, we will look at it.

Mr. Farr. Okay. Thank you.

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Thursday, April 10, 2003.

WITNESS

HON. TOM ALLEN, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MAINE

Mr. Allen. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, my friend Jose.

We--I do not have any songs to sing, but I----

Mr. Serrano. But, you know, it is funny, how quick those things. ``How Deep Is the Ocean''? [Laughter.]

And there is always the summer wind that came in blowing in from across the sea, right?

Mr. Allen. Let no one say that committee members do not work while----

[Laughter.]

Mr. Allen. I just want to thank you for all your past support in this area. I understand Mr. Greenwood and Mr. Weldon are both tied up, but they are submitting their testimony.

The four of us--the Ocean Caucus, and really, I think, in many ways, Curt was the driving force behind the creation of the Oceans Caucus--are here to call attention to a resource that is both not very well known and at great risk. I mean, it is often said that we know more about the far side of the moon than we know about our oceans.

There is a tremendous need for good science, in part, because we need to have dependable correct data to make wise management decisions. And it is particularly acute in coastal communities like mine in New England, where our entire fishing industry is very much dependent on the quality of the science. We have to know what is going on in the ocean, or this resource will suffer enormous damage, and no longer be sustainable.

On behalf of the Oceans Caucus, I want to talk about two things: One, the NOAA ocean observing programs; and, two, the National Sea Grant college program. I also concur with Sam's suggestion regarding the Knauss Marine Policy Fellows.

First, ocean observing systems are ways that scientists can generate data about the oceans and the atmosphere. They provide a wide variety of capabilities in support of our core NOAA missions, including improved data for real time dissemination and forecast modeling, improved environmental and fisheries management, climate change research, ocean science and the development of new sensor technologies.

Just to give you an example. Prior to the establishment of the ocean observing system in the Gulf of Maine, fishermen used

to have to guess what the weather was like 14, 15 miles offshore. Now they do not, because they can get real time data from a buoy located that far off shore. This cuts down on fuel consumption and improves safety, since the fishermen can now avoid going out to a place where it is too dangerous for them to go. It is an extraordinary development.

The National Ocean Research Leadership Council, which is a partnership of the Navy, NOAA, NASA and the National Science Foundation, has called for the implementation of a national integrated sustained ocean observing system by 2010. There are a lot of different agencies involved, public and private partnerships. And we need to help support their efforts.

The Oceans Caucus is asking support for NOAA's budget request of \$6.3 million to build and sustain a global ocean observance system within the NOAA Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research. And for the \$2 million dollars that the National Weather Service coastal global ocean observance system has requested.

These systems would provide data that would do everything from affect coastal erosion and would help the fishing, tourism, oil and gas industries. They would provide data on marine resources and protected species. They would document changes in ocean heat and carbon content, measure sea level change and really help us understand the climate.

Separate from that NOAA request, I am also asking for \$4 million in support of the Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System, or GoMOOS. This project is a collaborative effort of the University of Maine, the University of New Hampshire, and governmental and non-governmental agencies and groups. GoMOOS is the system that is operating up in the Gulf of Maine today.

But it is very much short of funds. The funds in the 2003 budget were not adequate to keep it going. We are very worried that without adequate funding in 2004, we may have to start pulling buoys out of the water. GoMOOS is considered the model regional system for the country. This is the system that is farthest advanced. It is a matter of enormous concern that we be able to get this money.

There is, in addition to the \$3 million for--basically for operating funds for GoMOOS, another \$1 million that would help the National Ocean Service coordinate regional systems like GoMOOS into a national framework. This funding would also help develop systems in other regions that are not currently monitored.

A couple of comments about the National Sea Grant College Program. It supports high quality competitive research and outreach that is directly responsive to the concerns of coastal constituents. For nearly four decades, this program has provided an extraordinary return for a fairly small federal investment.

The appropriations are matched by state and private funds. There are 31 Sea Grant programs located in coastal and Great Lakes states and they serve as the core of a national network of over 300 different participating institutions.

Sea Grant led the development and implementation of the lobster zone management process in Maine. Mr. Chairman, although this may not be a direct concern to your constituents, however the Maine lobster industry is important to our nation

as a whole. It is now a model for how fisheries can be successfully managed by the participants themselves.

Our lobstermen have basically divided the coast into zones. They have set their own trap limits. They have agreed how to manage the resource within those areas. And as a result of the involvement of 7,000 fishermen, the lobster resource is thriving. I mean, lobsters are doing very, very well.

Sea Grant is currently authorized to work in four priority areas: fisheries extension, aquatic nuisance species, oyster disease research and harmful algal blooms. Keeping the funding going is critical to all of them.

So what we are asking is \$68.14 million for Sea Grant funding in 2004, which would be an \$8 million increase over 2003 appropriations. We are asking for \$5 million to restore the buying power for the Sea Grant program that has been lost due to inflation and for \$3 million to support the Sea Grant fisheries extension program. This would allow Sea Grant to place additional fisheries agents on the docks to assist both the commercial and recreational fishing sectors.

And with that, Mr. Chairman, I just want to thank you again for your interest in this particular area and to reinforce how important our oceans are on a bipartisan basis.

[The information follows:]

[GRAPHIC(S) NOT AVAILABLE IN TIFF FORMAT]

Mr. Wolf. Thank you, Tom. I appreciate your testimony.

Mr. Serrano.

Mr. Serrano. Just one second, could you briefly explain to me the thing about the fishing and knowing the weather?

Mr. Allen. Oh, yes. The way GoMOOS operates, there are buoys located off the coast in various places in the Gulf of Maine. The buoys measure air temperature, windspeed, visibility, salinity, and a whole lot of things like that. They measure the seas, you know, how high the seas are running and currents and things like that.

There are sensors on the buoys that transmit data real time to a Web site. The fishermen turn on their computers. They log on to the GoMOOS Web site. They get the data from a particular buoy and they can decide whether or not to go out.

Mr. Serrano. These are water satellites, right? I mean weather satellites.

Mr. Allen. Right, that is what it is. Ocean observance systems will do for the oceans what satellites have done for predicting weather.

Mr. Serrano. Thank you.

Mr. Allen. Thank you very much.

Mr. Wolf. Mr. Weldon's not coming. Mr. Emanuel----

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Thursday, April 10, 2003.

WITNESS

HON. RAHM EMANUEL, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

Mr. Emanuel. Coming right here, timing is everything.

Mr. Wolf. Your full statement will appear in the record.

Mr. Emanuel. Thank you.

Let me apologize if I held you up. I am sorry.

Mr. Wolf. No, no, you were just on time.

Mr. Emanuel. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the subcommittee on the fiscal year 2004 appropriations request on critical things for the area of Chicago. What I am proposing are three to four areas, specifically in the drug interdiction and repeat offenders.

Gateway Foundation is a foundation in Chicago that has done model programs throughout the country, trying to reduce repeat offenders and substance abusers. And it is a program I have worked with extensively, both as a private citizen back in Chicago, also as an individual when I was in the White House.

Upwards of 80 percent of those entering the Cook County Jail test positive for illegal substance abuse and 75 to 80 percent of those individuals are repeat offenders. I am seeking a \$3 million appropriation grant to help the Chicago Gateway Foundation implement the novel comprehensive approach which is coerced abstinence.

It ties treatment to mandatory constant drug testing. It is called coerced abstinence. It has been a policy that has been used around the country.

There have been studies done both in Texas and in Illinois, where those who participated in the program, you dropped the recidivism rate down to as low as 7 percent. Those who do not participate and leave jail with their substance abuse intact and their habit intact end up having being close to about 75 percent of repeat offenders.

And basically the attempt here is to break or slam shut the revolving door between constant substance abusers coming in and out of the system with their drug habit intact. And it deals specifically with breaking that.

This project will specifically focus on those who are on probation who are the--result in about a third of the crimes in both theft, armed robbery and burglary area.care.

The cost for the core steps in this policy is 30 bucks per inmate, \$10 for the probationers per day, as opposed to \$21,000 for the incarceration of an adult and \$55,000 for a juvenile annually.

The second program is one--a project, a pilot project started by the Cook County Sheriff's Department and it is a program for female drug offenders. And it deals, again, with the area of coerced abstinence. This is a project called for \$4 million.

But one of the things that is unique about it is that it specifically targets female inmates who are repeat offenders.

But allows them to go through drug treatment, the coerced abstinence policy, but keep their families together and them with their children.care.

And as you remember, in the state of the union, the president talked about trying to make sure that female offenders have an ability to have some relationship still with their children. This is a model project that Cook County Sheriff's Office has developed. The request here is for \$4 million to start off the program.care.

Third is the Childserv family child care homes program. It is providing families a helping hand to help them support themselves, improving their quality of life and keeping them from draining state resources. The Childserv family child care homes program--builds entrepreneurial opportunities for low income individuals while providing affordable, accessible child care, a much needed resource among lower income families.care.

It is a child care service in home and allows women--individuals of modest income to set up a child care facility inside a house and a business inside their home. It both serves children well, as well as obviously starting off new and small businesses.care.

And third, the mayor of the city of Chicago has started an initiative to break substance abuse among, specifically the gay and lesbian community--is a program for the gay and lesbian community to deal with drugs and substance abuse. That would be an initiative for \$400,000.care.

I think I made a mistake by not telling you that the earlier program, Childserv--it targets parents transitioning off welfare to work but who are no longer eligible for child care subsidies, but are not earning a significant nor sufficient amount of income to afford the full cost of child care.care.

This initiative and startup would be \$500,000, support 20 child care facilities in the district, and provide 60 children of working parents child care.

I know you have a lot of people, so I was trying to rush through it.

[The information follows:]

[GRAPHIC(S) NOT AVAILABLE IN TIFF FORMAT]

Mr. Wolf. No, that is fine. And your full statement will appear in the record. We appreciate your appearing before this committee. And thank you.

Mr. Emanuel. Thank you very much.

Mr. Wolf. And Mr. Serrano.

Mr. Serrano. What areas do you represent, specifically?

Mr. Emanuel. It is the north side of Chicago. It goes from Wrigley Field and Lincoln Park and--Memorial Hospital on the east side, literally on the border to the lake, up through Wrigley Field, where Wrigley Park is and then Albany Park, where my grandfather on my mother's side came in 1917 from Russia.

It is one of the most dense areas and low income areas of the city, to the west side, Hiawatha Park, Forest Park. It is a working class ethnic Catholic district, 65 percent of the district is ethnic Catholic. So it has a diverse--they have the largest population of police and firefighters and city employees.

Mr. Serrano. Thank you for your testimony.

Mr. Wolf. Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Wolf. The staff has advised me that one proposal may fall within the jurisdiction of the Labor/HHS subcommittee.

Mr. Emanuel. The child care proposal?

Mr. Wolf. Yes.



Mr. Emanuel. Thank you very much.

Mr. Wolf. Thank you very much.

Mr. Emanuel. I think that was one that they were thinking about originally as a possible Byrne grant. I do not know what happened to the Byrne grant.

Mr. Wolf. Yes, it is under a little pressure. And----

Mr. Emanuel. Rumor has it. [Laughter.]

Mr. Wolf. And so I think you might want to kind of look at----

Mr. Emanuel. We will let you know if we do do that so that we are not double-dipping.

Mr. Wolf. Okay.

Mr. Visclosky.

Mr. Visclosky, your full statement will appear in the record.

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Thursday, April 10, 2003.

WITNESS

HON. PETER VISCLOSKY, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF INDIANA

Mr. Visclosky. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Serrano, thank you very much for allowing me to testify before you today. I am here really just for two reasons: one, to thank both of you as well as the members of the subcommittee and the staff. You have continued to be very thoughtful and very generous on behalf of the people I represent in Northwest Indiana.

And, particularly, I would like too thank you for your continued support of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program that Congressman LoBiondo and myself had worked so hard to authorize. You have in fact saved the lives of police officers all over the nation and I do want to thank you for that.

The requests that I have are for that program as well as a number of other programs important in Northwest Indiana. We will look forward to working with you and your staffs as we proceed to mark up in conference.

[The information follows:]

[GRAPHIC(S) NOT AVAILABLE IN TIFF FORMAT]

Mr. Wolf. Thank you very much.

Mr. Serrano. Thank you so much for your statement, and we will both be seeing you about some items we have in mind for your----

Mr. Visclosky. All right. [Laughter.]

Mr. Wolf. Thank you.

Mr. Serrano. Thank you.

Mr. Wolf. Mr. Sanders, your full statement will appear in the record.

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Thursday, April 10, 2003.

WITNESS

HON. BERNARD SANDERS, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF VERMONT

Mr. Sanders. Okay.

Mr. Wolf. And you can to summarize, if you can.

Mr. Sanders. Sure. First of all, Mr. Chairman, let me, and Mr. Serrano--all right, let me very sincerely thank you for the \$250,000 grant that you provided for the At-Risk Youth Crime Prevention Center in Newport, Derby Vermont region. That is the very, very tip of Vermont, the few miles away from the Canadian border.

It is, in fact, one of the lowest-income areas in the state of Vermont. They have been raising money in nickels and dimes at the high school, well over a thousand people have contributed, and that sum of money that you provided is going to take them close to the top. They are going to build that project; it is going to be a real asset for the community.

I have introduced--I am going to--coming back to you now, my major request is for funding for another facility similar to that, this time in the southern part of the state, in a town called Springfield, Vermont, which used to be a major industrial center in the state of Vermont--machine tool and die stuff.

It has been devastated by the loss of good-paying manufacturing jobs, the community, again, is trying to come together and fund a community center, focusing on at-risk kids, senior center--senior citizens, preschool, and so forth and so on.

Now, I believe I have national legislation in which would provide federal funding for community centers like this all over America. And I will tell you why I think these centers are so important.

We are all aware of the crisis in terms of obesity and other health problems which can, in fact, be dealt with before people become sick. No question about it. We do not get enough exercise. Our people are too heavy. We spend over a trillion dollars a year on health care, and yet we do a paltry sum of that in terms of disease prevention.

I predict that the day will come when I will not have to come to you for this money; it will be funded from the health care dollars. Any sensible person knows that if we keep people healthy, you save money, not only improve the quality of life.

So, I think these community centers do a great deal, especially in a climate like mine in Vermont, where, in the wintertime, it is bitter cold. And then people sit--they vegetate. They stay inside, they watch TV, they eat crap, they get too heavy, they get depressed. And these community centers give people an opportunity to mix with other people, to get out and exercise.

All over America--in your district, in yours, Jose. You know, people who have the money go to these physical fitness places. It is no great secret, right? But they are expensive. And if you are a working-class family, you are a low-income family, you are not going to go to those facilities.

These facilities are going to be open to everybody at nominal or no cost. And I think that they are just--every dollar we spend on them, we as a nation are going to save money

in terms of disease prevention, in terms of bringing kids out.

You know, we talk, in my--I will only talk about my district. Go to small towns of Vermont, you talk to the kids, and they say, ``There is nothing to do. We hang out on the corners.''

True all over America. But I do not want you to think it is not true in a rural state like Vermont. It is absolutely true. And when I was mayor of Burlington, we built youth centers which have done, I think, a tremendous job. You know, kids, they come in, they listen to their crappy music and all that stuff, but at least they are doing non-alcohol, non-drug-related activity, right?

That is where we have to move in this country, and that is what this is about. So I want to thank you very much for the support that you have given us in the last process and I am going to ask for your support again.

In a similar sense, there is a much smaller grant that we would like, for \$25,000, for at-risk youth crime prevention in the town of West Rutland, also a working-class town. This would help them improve upon a facility that they have.

We also have two requests in for police departments. One is for the Bristol, Vermont, Police Department to purchase HAZMAT equipment through the Department of Justice.

And the last request is, similarly, is for the Middlebury, Vermont, Police Department to upgrade personal protective equipment in to enhance shelter and communication facilities.

So, those are the four requests that we would like.

[The information follows:]

[GRAPHIC(S) NOT AVAILABLE IN TIFF FORMAT]

Mr. Wolf. Well, thank you very much. We will try to see what we can do.

You may wish to make a request through Mr. Rogers' Subcommittee on Homeland Security.

Mr. Sanders. Okay. We will do that.

Mr. Wolf. With that, Mr. Serrano.

Mr. Serrano. No. That is just a whole new area that is opening up, the Homeland Security Subcommittee. I really appreciate your testimony and the fact that you appeared yourself to young people and keeping our communities safe.

Mr. Sanders. And let me offer this: please, I would love to take both of you up. Come on up. You know, what goes on in northern Vermont is different than what is in your district, and it is different in your district, Frank. But I think you can see people coming together around these community centers.

Mr. Wolf. You also, too, might have your staff talk to our staff about the request to see if there is a way things could be shaped.

Mr. Sanders. Okay. We will do that promptly. Jose, thank you.

Mr. Serrano. There is nobody here. [Laughter.]

Mr. Terry. Well, then--In conclusion----

Mr. Wolf. Your full schedule will appear uninterrupted and if we could summarize, and we welcome you here.

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Thursday, April 10, 2003.

WITNESS

HON. LEE TERRY, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEBRASKA

Mr. Terry. Well, thank you. I do appreciate the time. And I am here, once again, on behalf of Girls and Boys Town USA.

First of all, let me start off by thanking you for the support that you have given them in the past. It is extremely important to Girls and Boys Town, but, more importantly, to the girls and boys that they serve.

Now, Boys Town has sold off property in Omaha, Nebraska, and raised money committed to their project of putting satellite projects throughout the country, in the toughest neighborhoods, in our cities, to try to help these children.

But the fact is, they cannot raise enough money to do it as quickly as it needs to be done. And that is why I come before this subcommittee and request help for Girls and Boys Town.

They have a great model and a great record of success. They truly take the children that the courts have given up on and have a remarkable success rate. Not every child is reformed, but almost 80 percent of the kids that they bring in leave on track to receive their high school education, on track to become a good part of our society.

And Father Val Peter was in town yesterday, and he mentioned that they have 73 of their graduates in the Gulf right now fighting for America. And he pulled out a letter and read it, from one of his past students, that had a \$10 bill in it as his weekly donation to the church. And that is just the type of quality person that they are able to help.

So, I come before you. They are in progress of a new facility in Phoenix, in New Jersey. They are doing two new projects in Portland, and Tallahassee, Florida.

So, every year that you help them is another new city they can go in the year after and help those kids.

I just greatly appreciate the help that you have given Girls and Boys Town to help those girls and boys in our toughest cities.

Any questions?

[The information follows:]

[GRAPHIC(S) NOT AVAILABLE IN TIFF FORMAT]

Mr. Wolf. Well, we will try to help. Again, it is a good program. I do appreciate your coming before the committee and I thank you for that.

Mr. Serrano. We do appreciate your commitment to this program. And, as the Chairman says, it is one of those stellar programs that we will try to keep helping.

Mr. Terry. Thank you.

Mr. Wolf. Thank you, Lee. The meeting is adjourned. Thank you.

[Testimony for the record follows:]

[GRAPHIC(S) NOT AVAILABLE IN TIFF FORMAT]

